



ECUADOR

Misión Permanente ante Naciones Unidas

**INTERVENCION EN EVENTO PARALELO:
“Inclusive and resilient cities for sustainable families:
Presentation of the Venice Declaration”**

WORLD CITIES DAY
Nueva York, 31 de octubre de 2018

Distinguished panellists, dear moderator, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this important event, which Ecuador has the privilege to cosponsor, to observe the **World Cities Day**, and recognize the role of family and family policies to actively contribute to *‘making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable’*, as stated in Sustainable Development Goal 11.

We would like to thank the Permanent Mission of Malaysia, as well as UN-Habitat, DESA, the representatives of local governments and civil society here present, in particular the International Federation for Family Development, for joining their efforts and contribute to the realization of this panel discussion.

As you are aware, Ecuador had the honour host the Habitat III Conference in Quito in October, 2016, which set a milestone not only because it adopted the **New Urban Agenda**, but also due to the number and diversity of participants: national, subnational and local governments were present, as well as civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities, the private sector, professionals and academics. More than 30 thousand participants came from 167 countries, constituting the largest participation in the history of United Nations conferences.

For my country, the realization of the right to the city is at the core of the New Urban Agenda, since Article 31 of the **Ecuadorian Constitution** states accordingly that people have the right to full enjoyment of the city and public spaces, under the principles of sustainability, social justice, respect for diverse cultural urban expressions, and balance between rural and urban backgrounds, through the promotion of participatory processes and the full exercise of freedoms and human rights.

This is the reason why we were pleased by the recognition in the New Urban Agenda of a shared vision of cities for all, for the equal use and enjoyment of cities and human settlements, with a view to promote inclusiveness and ensure that all inhabitants, without discrimination, are able to inhabit and produce just, safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, resilient and sustainable cities to foster prosperity and quality of life for all.¹

Furthermore, signatories of the New Urban Agenda committed themselves to promote equitable and affordable access to basic physical and social infrastructure for all, including affordable housing, modern and renewable energy, safe drinking water and sanitation, nutritious food, sustainable mobility, healthcare and family planning, education, culture, and information and communication technologies, among others, that have been appropriately included in the **Venice Declaration**.

Member States further committed themselves to ensure that these services are responsive to the rights and needs of all family members: women, children and youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, indigenous peoples and those in vulnerable situations.²

¹ Paragraph 11.

² Paragraph 34.

Ecuador has been working with diligence to enhance the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through policies and programs that benefit all Ecuadorian families, and I would like to provide just a few examples.

The National Assembly promulgated the "*Organic Law for Labor Justice and Recognition of Work in the Home*", establishing the right to social security affiliation of persons who perform household unpaid work. Likewise, the Ecuadorian Social Security Institute extended health coverage to relatives of members and retirees, including spouses or partners, and children under 18 years of age.

The National Assembly also approved the "*Organic Law for the promotion of youth work, exceptional regulation of working hours, unemployment and unemployment insurance*", that encourages the care of children to be extended and shared between working parents, by establishing that the father or mother, upon conclusion of the maternity or paternity leave, are entitled to an optional and voluntary leave without remuneration for up to nine additional months, within the first twelve months of the child's life.

Likewise, the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion has implemented a strategy of conformation, operation and strengthening of committees of people who care for people with disabilities. The project empowers and strengthens the role of family caregivers, through the creation of spaces for the improvement of personal skills, recreation and social participation.

These and other initiatives aim to consolidate and revitalize effective public policies that are fundamental to eradicate poverty, combat growing inequality and social and economic exclusion, as well as spatial segregation in cities and human settlements. They support local governments in fulfilling their key role in strengthening the interface among

all relevant stakeholders, offering opportunities for dialogue and participation from all segments of society.

The New Urban Agenda also recognizes that its implementation requires an enabling environment and a wide range of means, including access to science, technology, innovation, capacity development, and mobilization of financial resources, as well as enhanced international cooperation and partnerships among governments at all levels, in particular with the United Nations system, the private sector and civil society, and other actors, based on the principles of equality, non-discrimination, accountability, respect for human rights, and solidarity, especially with those who are the poorest and most vulnerable.

Thus the importance Ecuador gives to events such as today's in order to observe the **World Cities Day** and to gather with you to discuss how to achieve inclusive and resilient cities for sustainable families. We are confident in the everlasting legacy of the Conference and the New Urban Agenda, as well as the value of creating, promoting, and enhancing open, friendly, and participatory spaces for dialogue and understanding.

Thank you.